

# making tracks

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## Pacific Surfliner Trains Celebrate 5th Anniversary

On June 1, Amtrak and the California Department of Transportation celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the very popular Pacific Surfliner rail passenger service at the Amtrak Anaheim Station. Speakers included Gil Mallery, Amtrak Vice President, Strategic Planning and Contract Administration; Will Kempton, Director, California Department of Transportation; Anaheim Mayor Pro Tem Richard Chavez; Art Brown, Chair, LOSSAN and Metrolink Boards of Directors; Charles Ahlers, President, Anaheim/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau; and, Claire Bilby, Vice President, Disneyland Resorts. Amtrak received several congratulatory proclamations from elected officials. A special guest appearance by Mickey Mouse, who had accompanied Claire Bilby, rounded out the celebration.

Speakers cited scenic views, great destinations, frequent service, modern equipment, and stress-free travel as the five top reasons Pacific Surfliner trains are the most popular trains in the West.

During the month of June, ridership on Pacific Surfliner trains reached 10 million passengers since the service was launched under its new banner in June 2000. New Pacific Surfliner passenger equipment and locomotives were placed into service, and in the subsequent five years, ridership on the route increased 52 per cent.

Today the Pacific Surfliner corridor extends 347 miles through 32 cities and six counties from San Diego to San Luis Obispo. Following the Pacific coastline for major portions of the route, passengers aboard the Pacific Surfliner can view beaches, surfers, and amazing sunsets from panoramic windows. Inland Surfliner views run the gamut from busy cities and strawberry fields to the rocky high country around Chatsworth where Hollywood filmed many of its most famous westerns. There are 11 daily roundtrips between San Diego and Los Angeles (12 on weekends), with five daily roundtrips continuing north to Santa Barbara and two roundtrips extending to San Luis Obispo.

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# Discover Sacramento

Whether you're visiting Sacramento for business or on a pleasure trip, don't miss the city's many interesting historic attractions. When you arrive aboard an Amtrak California San Joaquin train, you will be at 5th and I Streets. Just three blocks away (at 2nd and I Streets) is the California State Railroad Museum, the largest railroad museum in North America. Enjoy meticulously restored locomotives and cars, exhibits including The Magic of Toy Trains, which features 1,000 vintage toy trains, six interactive displays and a magnificent operating toy train layout. And across from the Railroad Museum is a reconstruction of the Central Pacific Passenger Depot, built in 1876. The station shows the bustling activities of train travel in the mid-1800s.

At 101 I Street is the Discovery Museum. Housed in the reconstructed 1854 City Hall on the waterfront in Old Sacramento, the museum profiles a look at Sacramento's past and rich cultural heritage. State-of-the-art computer archives, gold displays and special exhibits are also included at the Museum.



*Enjoy free daily public tours of California's historic Capitol Building.*

Exhibits at The California Military Museum, at 1119 Second Street, show the state's military history from pre-statehood to the present time. The museum contains more than 30,000 military papers, documents and memorabilia. En route to the Military Museum walk by the Pony Express Monument, at 2nd and J Streets, which pays tribute to the 80 riders who made the 1,980-mile mail run on horseback to St. Joseph, Missouri, in less than 10 days.

Visit The California State Capitol (10th and Capitol Mall) to see the magnificent dome, marble mosaic floor, crystal chandeliers and monumental staircases. Free public tours are available every hour 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. And tours are conducted in the 40-acre Capitol Park, featuring trees and shrubs from around the world. There are also daily tours of the 15-room Governor's Mansion, located at 16th and H Streets, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At Sutter's Fort, 27th and L Streets, self-guided audio tours will describe the exhibit rooms, which include cooper and blacksmith's shops, a bakery, jail, dining room and living quarters and livestock area. Founded by John Sutter in 1839, it is Sacramento's earliest settlement. Adjacent is the California State Indian Museum, which illustrates the rich and diverse culture of California Native Americans.

The oldest public art museum west of the Mississippi is located in a restored Victorian at 3rd and O Streets. The Crocker Art Museum was founded in 1873. Original European paintings and master drawings were augmented with 19th century California paintings, sculptures, Asian art and, more recently, contemporary art and photography.

## Amtrak-Lionel Kids Essay Contest

Now through the end of August, Amtrak and Lionel Trains again are sponsoring the Amtrak-Lionel Kids Essay Contest aboard 43 Amtrak trains systemwide, including San Joaquins and Pacific Surfliners. The contest is designed to encourage and stimulate interest in train travel among children and their families.

Entry forms are available aboard Amtrak trains in coach seatbacks. Kids 12 years of age and under are asked to submit a short essay on why they like riding Amtrak.

Twenty-eight first place prizes of "The Polar Express" train set by Lionel will be awarded to contest winners. Based on the special locomotive and passenger cars designed for the hit motion picture, "The Polar Express", the Lionel train set includes a die-cast metal Berkshire steam locomotive with unique whistle, two lighted coach cars, a lighted observation car, miniature figures representing several characters in the film, plenty of track and a powerful transformer for hours of operating fun.

# Free Transfer Pass Program Expands

California Department of Transportation and its partner Amtrak have expanded the free transit transfer pass program to encourage train passengers to ride public transportation in their destination city. The Transit Transfer Pass Program for San Joaquin trains includes Fresno Area Express, Sacramento Regional Transit, Merced County Transit, AC Transit and The County Connection. Passengers aboard San Joaquin trains should request a transit pass from their conductor prior to departing the train at those destination cities participating in the free transit pass program. The pass is good for two one-way trips on the local transit bus. The pass is in two parts, one for the outbound trip and one for the return trip, and should be presented to the driver upon boarding the bus. The pass is valid for one year from date of issue.

In southern California, Pacific Surfliner passengers may take advantage of the transit pass program with SLO Transit, Regional Transit Authority, South County Area Transit, and City of Guadalupe. The Transit Transfer Pass Program will continue to add transit agencies in northern and southern California in the year ahead.

## Art and Soul Festival 2005

Amtrak California will join Comcast and other sponsors to present the popular Art and Soul Festival in Downtown Oakland over Labor Day Weekend, September 3, 4, and 5. Billed as one of the largest multi-cultural/multi-ethnic gatherings in the West, Art and Soul Festival will feature live music, entertainment and dancing, artists and their wares, storytellers, exotic food vendors, and the biggest Kids Fun Zone ever during the three-day event. Amtrak passengers can reach the Festival via shuttle bus from Jack London Square Station. Just ask your San Joaquin conductor for a free roundtrip AC transit pass.



**MAKE TRACKS WITH AMTRAK® TO THE COMCAST ART AND SOUL FESTIVAL.**

What better way to get to this year's Comcast Art & Soul Festival than aboard Amtrak® Capitol Corridor® or San Joaquin® trains? Just climb aboard, look back, relax, and start this fun-filled weekend of great art, music and food on the right note. To book tickets, visit [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) or call 1-800-US-A-RAIL. Easy bus connections available. Ask your conductor for a free transit transfer pass.

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 [www.amtrakcalifornia.com](http://www.amtrakcalifornia.com)  [www.capitolcorridor.org](http://www.capitolcorridor.org) 

## The SLO Experience

Situated on the Central Coast of California, San Luis Obispo is sheltered by steep, green hills to provide the perfect Mediterranean marine climate of balmy days and cool nights. Downtown streets are lined with shops and restaurants, and the residential neighborhoods are lined with classic California bungalows.

In the center of the city is the gleaming white Spanish Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa, built in 1772, the fifth of California's 21 mission. Festivals and special events take place on the plaza in front of the Mission year-round.

Agriculture plays an important role in the local economy. Weathered barns and herds of cattle may be seen on the surrounding farm and ranch lands. At the Thursday Night Farmers' Market, held year-round, growers bring fresh produce and flowers to town for the market that includes street food, crafts, and live entertainment.

A children's museum, art center, history museum and art galleries add to the city's cultural appeal. And forty-five minutes north of the city stands Hearst Castle, William Randolph Hearst's elaborate home.

South of the city is wine country, with two-dozen wineries between the rolling hills and the Pacific Ocean. At the beaches, surfing, sea kayaking, whale-watching and boogie-boarding are favorite pastimes. There are hiking and biking trails, state parks, national forests and beautiful lakes nearby.

Amtrak California's Pacific Surfliner offers two daily roundtrips between San Luis Obispo and Los Angeles via Santa Barbara and the San Fernando Valley. The San Luis Obispo schedule is rounded out with Amtrak Thruway motorcoach connections, providing travelers with plenty of travel options each day. The San Luis Obispo Amtrak motorcoaches connect with six daily Pacific Surfliner trains at Santa Barbara.



# The Perfect Family Getaway

San Diego is the perfect vacation destination, with its family-friendly activities, world-class attractions and special events throughout the year. And there is no better way to travel to San Diego than aboard Amtrak California's Pacific Surfliner trains. There are 11 daily roundtrip trains (12 on weekends) from Los Angeles and Orange County, five daily roundtrip trains that serve San Fernando Valley, Ventura County and Santa Barbara, and two daily trains that continue to San Luis Obispo.

The San Diego Zoo is a world-famous tropical garden that houses 4,000 animals. New at the Zoo is Monkey Trails, where guests walk through Asian and African forests filled with monkeys and other jungle life. There is a three-mile guided bus tour, sky tram, children's petting zoo and baby animal nursery. It is one of only four zoos in the U. S. that houses giant Pandas. The Zoo is located in Balboa Park, home to 15 museums, art galleries, theaters, sports facilities, as well as lush gardens and trees. Visit the Museum of Man, Museum of Art, Museum of Photographic Arts, Model Railroad Museum, Automotive Museum, Aerospace Museum, Natural History Museum and the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center.

Beautiful Mission Bay has separate, designated areas for sailing, power boating, fishing, swimming and water skiing. Some 20 miles of paths around the bay are for walkers, runners, bikers and in-line skaters. And on The Big Bay there are harbor tours, dinner cruises and whale-watching expeditions. Also on Mission Bay, SeaWorld San Diego features six major shows, fascinating attractions and dozens of exhibits containing marine life from around the globe. The rest of San Diego's 70 miles of coastline provide beach activities for everyone's interest, including swimming, surfing, snorkeling, building sandcastles, barbecuing, volleyball games or just lying in the sun.

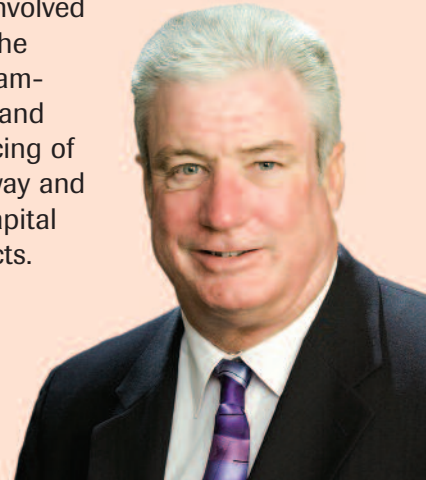
Close to the Amtrak Santa Fe Depot in San Diego there are a variety of shops, antique stores, restaurants and hotels. Horton Plaza is an outdoor shopping and entertainment center, and the Gaslight Quarter includes restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, retail shops, theatres and art galleries.

## New Rail Division Chief Named

William D. Bronte, a 25-year veteran of the California Department of Transportation, has been named Chief of the Division of Rail, succeeding Warren Weber, who retired from the Department in December 2004.

For the past ten years, Mr. Bronte has served in the Division of Rail as Project Manager for the acquisition of passenger rail cars and locomotives, and has headed capital project development, rail operations and marketing.

Prior to joining the Division of Rail, Mr. Bronte worked in the Department's Division of Budgets where he was involved with the programing and financing of highway and rail capital projects.



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& Housing Agency**  
Sunne Wright McPeak,  
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